

**Import of LNG**

†4239. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import Liquefied Natural Gas;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that this will be more costly as compared to the import of diesel etc., and as a result our indigenous industry will be destroyed; and
- (c) if so, whether Government will review this import policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is on Open General Licence. Petronet LNG Limited (PLL), a Joint Venture Company of Gas Authority of India Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation limited, is setting up LNG Terminals with regasification facilities of an initial capacity of 8.0 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) at Dahej in Gujarat and 2.5 MTPA at Kochi in Kerala. PLL has signed a Sale Purchase Agreement with M/s Ras Gas of Qatar for supply of LNG for these terminals.

(b) No, Sir. Import of LNG is considered cheaper as against diesel. Also, LNG based power generation will be cheaper more than 25% as compared to diesel based power.

- (c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

**LPG distributorship in Kangra district**

4240. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 57 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1999 and state:

- (a) whether the LPG distributorship in Kangra district, Himachal

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pradesh at locations Nagrota, Lambagaon, Pragpur and Ranital have been opened and started functioning;

- (b) if so, from which date, location-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) to (c) The LPG distributorships at Nagrota-Suryan and Ranital in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh have been commissioned on 31.8.1999 and 25.1.2000 respectively. The applications for selection of LPG distributorships at Lambagaon and Pragpur of Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh are pending with Dealer Selection Board for selection. It normally takes 6—12 months from the date of interview till the date of commissioning of dealership.

**Agreement to raise freight of tankers by BPCL**

†4241. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bharat Petroleum Company Limited has entered into any agreement to raise the freight of tankers for transportation of diesel and petrol by road;
- (b) if so, by when this agreement was entered into;
- (c) whether the said agreement has already been implemented; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for delaying the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) and (b) Tenders for transportation of petrol and diesel are floated by the Industry Co-ordinators for all the States in each region through Joint Industry Public Tender on behalf of all Oil Marketing Companies *viz.* BPCL, IOC, HPCL & IBP. The

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